

The Order for the Worship of God

6th Sunday of Easter

May 21, 2017

Eleven o'clock a.m.

The Service of Preparation

Silent Preparation

There is nothing – no circumstance, no trouble, no testing – that can ever touch me until, first of all, it has gone past God and past Christ right through to me. If it has come that far, it has come with a great purpose, which I may not understand at the moment.

But as I refuse to become panicky, as I lift up my eyes to Him and accept it as coming from the throne of God for some great purpose of blessing to my heart, no sorrow will ever disturb me, no circumstance will cause me to fret, for I shall rest in the joy of what my Lord is – that is the rest of victory!

Alan Redpath

Welcome, Announcements, and Greeting

The Prelude

The Choral Introit *"Awesome God"* (Dan. 9:4) Mullins

✦ The Call to Worship (from Psalm 66)

Leader: Shout for joy to God, all the earth! Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious. Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! All the earth bows down to you and they sing the praises of your name."

People: **Come and see what God has done, his awesome deeds for humankind! He rules forever by his power. Praise our God, all peoples; let the sound of his praise be heard. We come to your temple, O God, with offerings and fulfill our vows to you.**

Leader: God has surely listened and heard our prayers. Praise be to God, who has not rejected our prayer

or withheld his love from us! Come, let us worship our God!

✦ The Hymn of Adoration..... No. 234
Crown Him with Many Crowns (vv. 1, 2, 3)

✦ The Declaration of Faith The Apostles' Creed
I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead, he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. *Amen.*

The Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

The Prayers of Silent Confession and Repentance

The Assurance of Forgiveness

✦ The Gloria Patri No. 622
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

The Response to God's Work in Our Lives

The Presentation of our Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory

✦ Doxology No. 625
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

✦ The Prayer of Dedication

✦ The Hymn of Meditation..... No. 498
Peace Like a River

The Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

The Ministry of the Word

The Scripture Reading
(p. 1016 in pew Bible)

I Peter 3:13-22

The Anthem *"Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit"* ARR. Dawson

Ev'ry time I feel the spirit moving in my heart,
I will pray;
Yes, ev'ry time I feel the spirit moving in my heart,
I will pray.

Upon the mountain, my Lord spoke, out of His mouth
came fire and smoke;
Looked all around me, it looked so fine,
till I asked my Lord if all was mine. *(Refrain)*

Jordan River is chilly an' cold, it chills the body,
but not the soul;
There ain't but one train upon this track,
it runs to heaven an' right back. *(Refrain)*

The Sermon *"Loving Jesus: Even If it Isn't Fair"* Rev. King

✦ The Hymn of Dedication.....see insert
For God So Loved the World

✦ Congregational Response #105 (chorus) *He Is Lord*
He is Lord, He is Lord! He has risen from the dead and He is Lord!
Ev-'ry knee shall bow, ev-'ry tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

✦ The Benediction

Postlude

✦ Please stand if you are able

Elder/Reader - Vivian Bauman
Acolyte - Keynisha Valle-Perez

The flowers at the pulpit today are presented to the glory of God by Keith & Shirley Campbell in memory of Shirley's mother, Helen M. Brownlee, who went to be with the Lord on May 17, 2007.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

- Sun. 05/21** Sunday school, 9:30 a.m.
First Baptist Church-HS/ College Class, 10:00-10:50 a.m.
Worship Service, 11:00 a.m.
Fellowship Hour, 12:00 noon
- Tues. 05/22** Women's Services, 5:45-7:30 p.m.
- Wed. 05/23** Prayer Group, 9:30 a.m.
Pastor's Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.
Choir, 7:30 p.m.

Summer Worship Schedule

- Worship Service begins 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, June 4th, and will return to 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, October 1st.
- Last day for Sunday school will be Sunday, May 28th, and it will resume Sunday, October 1st.
- Last night for choir practice and Pastor's Bible Study will be Wednesday, May 24th. They will resume in the Fall.

Flower Sponsors Needed June 4th & 25th

If anyone is interested, please see Betty Simpkins or call the church office at 935-2148. The cost is \$15.00. Clearly mark your check "Flowers" and place in with the regular offering.

Fundraiser for 2017 Salem ASP Teams

It's that time again to "Make a Change!" Loose change collection for ASP can be given to Lindsey, Elise, Morgan, Sierra, Kym, Reid or Beth. Thank you!!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY
5/25/1985 – Ron & Kym Owens

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH – WEBSITE

Our website is still under construction but you can access it now by going to <http://fpcsnj.com/>

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MISSIONARIES:

Ellie Hall - Wycliffe Bible Translator in Thailand
Revs. Dwayne & Janet Doyle - Interserve USA-Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
Trinity Preparatory School – Matt & Chanda Williams

SERMONS FOR THE SUNDAYS OF EASTER

May 28, Ascension Sunday, "Loving Jesus: Glory Is Coming!", I Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11
June 4, Pentecost Sunday, "On All the Lord's People", Numbers 11:24-30
June 11, Trinity Sunday, "Distinctive Blessings", II Corinthians 13:11-14

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PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR COUNTRY'S LEADERS & THOSE IN THE MILITARY:

Mark Lindle... U.S. Navy
James Morrison... U.S. Air Force
Jamie Spears... U.S. Navy
Andrew Spears... Delaware Air National Guard
Matthew Kemm, M.D... U.S. Army Medical Corps
Austin Brown... U.S. Air Force



PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR BROTHERS & SISTERS IN CHRIST

Second Baptist Church Salem NJ

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Mike Smith, Prayers for serious health issues. (*Friend of Keith & Shirley Campbell*)

First Presbyterian Church of Salem, The pastoral search process is continuing. We have received from the PCUSA data base a number of resumes for our consideration. We are sorting them out now and taking special notice of those that might be a good fit for us. Don't stop praying for the committee, for our work and for us as individuals (Reid, Earl, Chris, Kym, Erin and Wendy) that we would appropriate God's wisdom for our task.

Harry Springer, Prayers for severe health issues. (*Friend of David Eastlack*)

Elvena Eastlack, Prayers for severe spinal stenosis. (*Sister-in-law of David & Sharon Eastlack*)

Connie DiArchangelo, Prayers for recent diagnosis of serious health issues. (*Mother of a friend of Reid Willis*)

Linda Stokes, Prayers for serious health issues. (*Friend of Erin Owens.*)

Terry Zieger's sister, Serious health problems.

Robert Parker, Health concerns. (*Friend of David Eastlack*)

Randi Gage, Praise for encouraging test results.

Brandon Bush, (*Friend of Reid Willis*)

Bob Hyatt, (*Friend of Reid Willis*)

Elizabeth Colucci, Prayers for health concerns. (*Carol Ives' niece*)

Torrey Reade, Prayers for serious health concerns. (*Friend of Noel Kemm*)

Rev. Jack & Martha Schilthuis, Prayers for health issues.

Alexander Fiorillo, Diagnosed with a spinal tumor. (*Joe's piano coach*)

Sarah Doyle, Continued prayers. (*Rev. Dwayne & Janet Doyle's daughter*)

Linda Grant, Prayers for serious health concerns and treatment. (*Friend of the Warren/Owens Families*)

Sam Elliot, Continued prayers during cancer treatment. (*Mother works at the Oak Diner in Salem*)

Steve Silagi, Prayers for health concerns and surgery. (*Friend of Betty Simpkins*)

Gene Zieger's father, Prayers for chronic health issues.

Bernie Weber, Prayers for serious health concerns. (*Friend of David & Sharon Eastlack*)

Bill Wilkinson, Receiving treatment for spinal tumor. (*Friend of the Kings*)

PLEASE PRAY FOR: (CONTINUED)

Caroline Hickman, Prayers during cancer treatment. (*16 year old daughter of a co-worker of Keith Campbell*)

Father Michael J. Doyle, Diagnosed with mouth cancer. (*Parish Priest of Chris Davenport's coworker*)

Dawn Kimble, Prayers for health issues.

Terry Zieger, Prayers for health concerns.

Robert Pollack, Continued prayers. (*Steve Pollack's brother*)

Donna Bacon, Continued prayers for health issues.

Bob & Maureen McCook, Chronic health issues. (*John King's sister & brother-in-law*)

Carol Lee, Diagnosed with cancer. (*Friend of Sharon Eastlack*)

Amy Ricketts, Continued prayers for health issues.

Galen & Sara Lenhert, Continued prayers. (*Beth Davenport's parents*)

Biba Kavass, Continued prayers. (*Friend of Beth Davenport*)



Sermon Notes

I. Loving Jesus: Even If It Isn't Fair

I Peter 3:13-22

A. Context.

1. The churches to whom Peter is writing are a persecuted minority with an unstable emperor, surrounded by cultic, primitive religion.
2. Previously in the letter, Peter instructed that servants/slaves, despite the unfairness of their situation, serve their masters in a godly manner, even if it meant unfair and harsh suffering.

B. Now, Peter goes a step further. He suggests that not only should we be gracious when we suffer for no reason, but we should also respond with grace **when we suffer directly for doing good!**

1. Verse 14 - "Even if you should suffer for righteousness sake, you will be blessed."
2. Verse 17 - "For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil."
 - a. Don't assume when you or someone else endure suffering that it is because you have done something sinful.
 - b. Isn't it interesting that many claim to reject the Christian faith because "Christianity is just a crutch?"
3. Completing the challenge, Peter, in verses 15 and 16, urges us in the midst of unfair treatment "to make a defense ... for the hope that is in you ... with gentleness and respect." This does not mean that we never challenge or resist, but we do so in a godly way.
4. In all of these circumstances, it's not about us, but we are to "honor Christ the Lord as holy" (v. 15).

5. Finally, Peter, in verse 17, implies that we should not unnecessarily pursue or invite suffering for doing good, but only "if that should be God's will."

C. An illustration from the pre-incarnate Christ in the times of Noah (vv. 15-22).

1. This is a very difficult passage on which many accomplished scholars respectfully disagree.
2. Wayne Grudem, in his commentary on I Peter, suggests that Peter is teaching that, in the time of Noah, Christ, in the spirit, gave opportunity for conviction of sin, but only Noah and his family responded and were saved and brought safely through the water. All of the others are now condemned and imprisoned (v. 19) in hell.
 - a. Since then, the incarnate Christ has suffered unfairly for us (v. 18 - "the righteous for unrighteous") and the water of our baptism now represents and declares our rescue from condemnation and our new life through his resurrection because of our faith in the one who now has all authority (v. 22 - "is at the right hand of God").